THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAVA): (a) No, Sir. The commitment made by the National Informatics Centre (NIC) to the Ministry of Labour (MOL) is to install an integrated Local Area Network (LAN) in Shram Shakti Bhavan by the end of the financial year 1995-96. This LAN will be accessible to all the Sections. A common facility in the NIC-MOL Computer Centre with 28 terminals has already been installed for access by all the Sections.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Quantum of Direct and Indirect Trade with Pakistan

2046. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minsiter of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the quantum of direct trade with Pakistan is negligible as compared to the indirect trade which is routed through third countries like Singapore;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have given thought to the idea that the volume of trade with Pakistan can be multiplied many times if the direct land route to Pakistan is contemplated; and

(d) if so, what action is proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINSITER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) No reliable assessment of indirect trade between India and Pakistan routed through third countries is possible to be made. Direct trade between the two countries, however, cannot be described as negligible, being Rs. 338 cr. in 1993-94 and Rs. 344 cr. in 1994-95.

(c) and (d) Trade between India and Pakistan is already operated, amongst others, by rail route. The Governemnt have proposed to Pakistan to reopen another rail route, but Pakistan has not yet responded.

Price Differentials between Retail and Wholesale price of Essential Commodities

2047. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the recent price differentials on per Kg. basis, between the wholesale and retail prices of essential commodities in the metropolitan cities;

(b) whether any guidelines have been framed with regard to the maximum permissible price differential between the wholesale and retail prices of essential commodities;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the manner in which the Ministry monitors the price behaviour of essential commodities particularly at the retail level so as to protect the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DEPTT. OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM (SHRI VENOD SHARMA): (a) A Statement is given below:

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

(d) The price differentials between the wholesale and retail prices could be attributed to the overall demand and supply position of a particular commodity in the market, inclusion of retailers' margin and cost of transportation etc. The prices of selected essential commodities are beign monitored on a daily basis. The daily retail prices of essential commodities like rice, wheat, sugar, arhar dal, gram dal,

groundnut oil, mustared oil, vanaspati, tea, onions, potatoes and salt are collected from the State Civil Supplies Departments on daily basis. The availability of these commodites is also reviewed on a regular basis. Necessary action is taken to advise the concerned agencies for arranging the supplies of the essential commodities in the areas where their supplies are found to be deficient. These commodities are also being supplied through the Cooperative Stores, nominated retail stores of the Government at reasonable prices.

Statement

Price differentials on per kg. basis between Retail and Wholesale Prices of Selected Essential Commodities at selected Metropolitan Cities as on 6.12.95.

(Price Rs. per kg.)

Commodity/ Cities	Retail Prices	Wholesale Prices	Price difference between Retail & Wholesale prices
1	2	3	4
Rice			
Delhi	9.50	7.90	1.60
Bombay	9.00	8.00	1.00
Calcutta	7.00	6.50	0.50
Bangalore	8.00	7.30	0.70
Madras	8.50	7.22	1.28
Wheat			
Delhi	5.50	4.40	1.10
Bombay	8.00	6.25	1.75
Bangalore	7.50	7.00	0.50
Madras	8.00	7.32	0.68
Groundnut Oil			
Delhi	49.00	42.00	7.00
Bombay	44.00	40.30	3.70
Bangalore	39.50	39.00	0.50
Madras	41.00	36.00	5.00
Mustard Oil			
Delhi	39.00	35.67	3.33
Bombay	46.00	41.73	4.27
Calcuta	39.00	36.60	2.40
Arhar Dal			
Delhi	31.00	28.00	3.00
Bombay	29.00	25.25	3.75
Calcutta	26.00	20.50	5.50
Madras	29.00	25.20	3.80

1	2	3	4
Sugar			
Delhi	14.50	13.70	0.80
Bombay	13.60	13.00	0.60
Calcutta	13.80	13.25	0.55
Bangalore	12.75	12.25	0.50
Madras	12.20	11.68	0.52
Gram Dal			
Delhi	14.00	8.20	5.80
Bombay	16.00	12.00	4.00
Calcutta	12.00	9.30	2.70
Bangalore	13.00	9.60	3.40
Madras	12.50	9.64	2.86
Vanaspati			
Delhi	42.00	36.00	6.00
Bombay	43.00	37.33	5.67
Calcutta	40.00	43.20	3.20
Bangalore	43.00	39.67	3.33
Madras	44.00	38.37	5.63

SOURCE: States/UTs Govts. Food & Civil Supplies Departments.

Compaign against Employment of Child Labour

2048. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minsiter of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of child labour has come down due to the compaign started agaisnt employment of child labour; and

(b) the industries affected by the compaign?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) and (b) It is not possible to assess the impact of any single component of the child labour elimination programme in the short run. However, it is felt that awareness campaign undertaken to sensitize people against employment of child labour launched by Governemnt has enhanced awareness in society against this social evil.

Plans to Increase Indo-Pak Trade

2049. DR. GOPALRAO VITHALRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whetner Governemnt's attention has been drawn to certain utterances of high level burecaucrate of Pakistan that their country has plans to increase Indo-Pak trade;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to take some measures in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Recent media reports quoting Pakisan Government officials on Indo-Pak trade have come to Government's notice. However,